

Message Text

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ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 STR-02 STRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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EA-06 USIE-00 IO-06 /048 W

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O 061843Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5298

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BRUSSELS 04356

LIMDIS/NOFORN

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

GENEVA FOR USDEL MTN

DEPARTMENT PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, JA, ETRD

SUBJ: EC/JAPAN TRADE DISCUSSIONS AT MARCH 7 EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 2359; (B) BRUSSELS 2431; (C) BRUSSELS
4251

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE COPIES OF LETTERS
SENT TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA BY DANISH PRIME
MINISTER JORGENSEN (EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT), AND EC
COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS, CONCERNING THE OUTCOME
OF DISCUSSION ON EC/JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS AT THE
FEBRUARY 7 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL (REFS A AND B).
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MISSION HAS OBTAINED FROM SAME SOURCE TRANSLATIONS OF
REPLIES BY FUKUDA TO THESE TWO LETTERS. JORGENSEN,
JENKINS, AND FUKUDA LETTERS FORM PART OF DOSSIER ON EC/
JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS BEING SUBMITTED TO MARCH 7 FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL (REF C). TEXTS OF LETTERS FOLLOW BELOW.

2. FEBRUARY 16 LETTER FROM JORGENSEN TO FUKUDA:

BEGIN TEXT:

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

ON FEBRUARY 7TH, THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DISCUSSED RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE COMMUNITY.

YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN INFORMED IN GENERAL LINES OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE COUNCIL WHICH WERE COMMUNICATED TO YOUR AMBASSADOR TO THE COMMUNITIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING BY ITS PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, AND MR. HAFERKAMP, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION. YOU WILL ALSO BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, MR. ROY JENKINS.

THE COUNCIL, IN A WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE MATTER, INVITED THE COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL TO MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

IN CONSEQUENCE, I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN MY CAPACITY OF PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHICH AT ITS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ON APRIL 7-8 IS PLANNING TO DISCUSS EC-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

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I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY ALL THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO A STRENGTHENED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN AND THE NEED TO OBTAIN THROUGH SUCH COOPERATION A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF THE JAPANESE SURPLUS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT IN THE JAPANESE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMUNITY CONSIDERS IT VITAL THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S RECENTLY DECLARED OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS TO \$6 BILLION IN 1978 BE REACHED AND THAT THE SURPLUS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. THE COMMUNITY'S MEMBER STATES ALL SUPPORT YOUR RECENT DECISIONS AND AGREE THAT AN ALL-OUT EFFORT IN THE MACRO-ECONOMIC FIELD IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED EXPANSION OF JAPANESE DOMESTIC DEMAND AND SUSTAINED GROWTH AT A HIGH LEVEL.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMUNITY WOULD - AS DISCUSSED IN THE DAC - LIKE TO SEE A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERAL AID INSTITUTIONS.

THE COUNCIL ALSO CONSIDERS THAT A MAJOR EFFORT ON THE PART OF JAPAN AS WELL AS ON THAT OF THE COMMUNITY IS REQUIRED TO OPEN UP THE JAPANESE MARKET. THE COMMISSION HAS PRESENTED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO YOU IN THIS CONNECTION.

WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE BEST POSSIBLE PREPARATION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN COPENHAGEN IN APRIL, I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE COUNCIL'S INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENCY TO ACT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSION MAKES

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BRUSSELS 04356

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IT POSSIBLE FOR MY GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THEREBY GAINING FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR VIEWS AND REACTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION. I AM MOST GRATEFUL THAT IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO AGREE TO SEE MR. K. B. ANDERSEN AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. I AM SURE THAT MR. ANDERSEN'S VISIT WILL FURTHER DEEPEN THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INTENSIFIED COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON WHICH WE AGREED AT OUR MOST PLEASANT AND SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSION IN TOKYO LAST DECEMBER.

I DO NOT NEED TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF HAVING HAD FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS AND OBJECTIVES BEFORE THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S MEETING IN COPENHAGEN IN APRIL. WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, ANKER JORGENSEN.

3. FUKUDA REPLY TO JORGENSEN:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER, DATED 16 FEBRUARY 198, WRITTEN TO ME IN YOUR CAPACITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU, AS I STRESSED IN THE MOST PLEASANT AND REWARDING TALKS WE HAD DURING YOUR VISIT TO JAPAN LAST DECEMBER, AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF A MORE STRENGTHENED AND INTENSIFIED COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

ESPECIALLY, AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD ECONOMY IS FACED WITH THE MOST SERIOUS SITUATION SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE COOPERATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES, PARTICULARLY JAPAN, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE UNITED STATES IS INDISPENSABLE FOR OVERCOMING THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION. I DID STRESS THIS IN MY RECENT LETTER TO MR. ROY JENKINS, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND AGREED TO THE CONSULTATIONS HE PROPOSED, AS I BELIEVE THAT SUCH FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEW WILL BE USEFUL IN FURTHERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS OUR COMMON APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF THE WORLD ECONOMY.

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IN THE SAME SPIRIT, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WELCOMES THE VISIT TO JAPAN OF H.E. MR. K. B. ANDERSEN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN

COMMUNITIES AND DANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM TO EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AS WELL AS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, TAKEO FUKUDA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN. END TEXT.

4. FEBRUARY 8 LETTER FROM JENKINS TO FUKUDA:

BEGIN TEXT:

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

WE YESTERDAY HAD A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND I WANTED TO LET YOU HAVE A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION THERE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN. THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIC TASKS. AS YOU KNOW THE GROWING TRADE DEFICIT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES. THIS HAS BECOME STILL GREATER IN THE PERIOD SINCE OUR MOST VALUABLE MEETINGS IN TOKYO LAST OCTOBER. AT THE MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES ON 5 DECEMBER, I WAS ASKED TO CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN, AND SINCE THEN I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF DISCUSSING WITH MR. USHIBA MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE EACH FACE. I HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES NOW UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER AS A RESULT.

AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING OF MINISTERS THERE WAS NO DOUBT
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OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMON RELATIONSHIP. NATURALLY WE HAVE TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS SET ITSELF, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT OF ATTAINING A

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5300

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF THE JAPANESE SURPLUS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT IN THE JAPANESE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978. BUT WE FELT IT INDISPENSABLE THAT A MAJOR TURN ROUND IN YOUR TRADING ACCOUNT SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE TAKING PLACE BY THE SUMMER OF 1978 AND THAT YOUR OBJECTIVES FOR THAT YEAR AND THE NEXT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED.

THE EFFECTS OF THE MACRO-ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN, IN PARTICULAR TO EXPAND INTERNAL DEMAND, WILL NOT BY THEIR NATURE BE EVIDENT FOR SOME TIME. IT IS NOT FOR US TO SAY WHAT OTHER MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY. BUT I AM SURE YOU HAVE IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ADAPTATIONS TO EXISTING FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES AND TO EXCHANGE CONTROL. WE ALSO HOPE
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THAT THE CHANGES YOU HAVE ANNOUNCED IN JAPANESE DEVELOPMENT AID WILL RAPIDLY LEAD TO A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAMMES. IT WOULD, I THINK, BE HELPFUL IF THE COMMISSION WERE TO MAKE FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR ON A REGULAR, PERHAPS TWO-MONTHLY, BASIS THE STATE OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND JAPAN.

AS FOR OPENING UP THE JAPANESE MARKET, WE HAVE MANY TIMES SAID THAT WE THINK THAT THE RIGHT WAY TO PROCEED IS THROUGH EXPANSION RATHER THAN RESTRICTION OF TRADE. THIS

VIEW WAS ENDORSED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHO INVITED THE COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ENLARGE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN. WE WOULD LIKE THESE CONSULTATIONS TO COVER THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR TAKING FURTHER SPECIFIC TRADE MEASURES AND GIVING EUROPEAN FIRMS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS. WE ALSO WISH TO DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS A PROGRAMME FOR INCREASING JAPANESE IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES, AND FOR CHANGES IN THE JAPANESE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. WE NATURALLY ACCEPT THAT THIS WILL CALL FOR A MAJOR EFFORT ON THE PART OF EUROPEAN EXPORTERS.

AS YOU KNOW THERE WILL BE A FURTHER MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF OUR MEMBER STATES ON 7 APRIL. I SHALL NEED TO REPORT AT THAT MEETING ON PROGRESS IN THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE COMMISSION WAS YESTERDAY INVITED TO PURSUE WITH YOU. I HAVE ASKED VICE-PRESIDENT HAERKAMP TO BE READY TO VISIT TOKYO FOR CONSULTATIONS AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON OR AROUND 20 MARCH IN THE HOPE THAT BY THEN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS CAN HAVE BEEN MADE. IN THE MEANTIME I AM ARRANGING FOR OFFICIALS TO COME AT ONCE TO

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TOKYO TO PREPARE THE GROUND.

OUR DISCUSSIONS LAST OCTOBER MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION ON ME. I THEREFORE KNOW THE EXTENT OF YOUR OWN COMMITMENT TO THE GOOD MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE SUCCESS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. I COUNT ON YOUR CONTINUING TO GIVE YOUR FULL PERSONAL AUTHORITY TO REDRESSING A SITUATION WHICH COULD OTHERWISE PUT THE WORLD SYSTEM INTO PERIL WITH GRAVE DAMAGE TO US ALL.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, ROY JENKINS.
END TEXT.

5. FUKUDA REPLY TO JENKINS:

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 8, 1978, IN WHICH YOU GAVE ME YOUR PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND JAPAN IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 1978.

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AS I STRESSED IN THE MOST VALUABLE TALKS WHICH WE HAD
DURING YOUR VISIT TO JAPAN LAST OCTOBER, AND ALSO IN MY
RECENT SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL DIET, IT IS MY VIEW THAT
THE WORLD ECONOMY IS FACED WITH THE MOST SERIOUS SITUATION
SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE
COOPERATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES, ESPECIALLY,
JAPAN, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE UNITED STATES
IS INDISPENSABLE FOR OVERCOMING THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION.

IN RECENT MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS DECIDED,
UPON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, TO TAKE A SERIES OF ECONOMIC
MEASURES FOR STIMULATING INTERNAL DEMAND AND FOR OPENING
UP THE JAPANESE MARKET. IN THE SAME SPIRIT WE ARE CO-
OPERATING POSITIVELY TOWARD THE MULTILATERAL TRADE
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NEGOTIATIONS (MTN). MR. NOBUHIKO USHIBA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ON HIS VISIT TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN DECEMBER 1977 AND AGAIN IN JANUARY 1978, EXPLAINED PERSONALLY TO YOU THE DETAILS OF THESE MEASURES. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE OF A GLOBAL NATURE WHICH ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE COMMUNITIES IN THE PAST.

IT IS MOST GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT, IN RECENT YEARS, AS A RESULT OF A NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS HELD AT VARIOUS LEVELS, BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITIES AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED.

AS REGARDS THE CONSULTATIONS YOU NOW PROPOSE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS AGREEABLE TO THEM IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY PREVAILED BETWEEN THE COMMUNITIES AND JAPAN, AS I BELIEVE THAT SUCH FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WILL BE USEFUL IN FURTHERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS OUR COMMON APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF THE WORLD ECONOMY.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY,
TAKEO FUKUDA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN. END TEXT. HINTON

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